



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ERICA L. JEFFRIES • DIRECTOR



For Immediate Release

Friday, November 6, 2015

Contact

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*** * * Media Advisory * * ***

IDVA supports Bunker Labs at 1871 as they honor veteran entrepreneur success and job creation, launches new online gamification experience at 2nd Annual "Dining In Luncheon"

What: Erica Jeffries, Director of Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs will be at an annual luncheon featuring Bunker Labs member companies, Bunker supporters, military veteran leaders, and other VIPs, including Senator Dick Durbin who will join as one of the event speakers. Bunker Labs will highlight the success of member companies through a live video conference with Kim Jung, CEO of Rumi Spice, in Afghanistan. Jung, a graduate of West Point and Harvard Business School, will provide a look at Rumi Spice's saffron harvesting operation in Kabul. Jung will also discuss their efforts to provide employment opportunities for Afghan women and Chicago job creation at the company's facility at 1400 W. 46th St.

The Bunker will also be launching their new online gamification experience, Bunker in a Box, as featured recently in the Chicago Tribune: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/bluesky/originals/ct-bunker-in-a-box-bsi-20150615-story.html>. This 14-mission free web program will allow active duty military personnel and veterans to participate in the Bunker's educational and community-building opportunities even if they aren't able to access a Bunker facility.

Why: IDVA is a proud supporter of Bunker Labs and veteran entrepreneurs. Bunker Labs provides veterans and transitioning active duty personnel with resources, guidance, and networks to encourage and facilitate their entrepreneurial goals. The launch of Bunker in a Box will greatly extend the impact of Bunker programs by allowing military personnel around the nation and the globe to engage with the Bunker curriculum, build connections and prepare for successful careers.

By highlighting the successes of Bunker Labs member companies and honoring the support of business, veteran, and civic leaders, the Bunker looks to grow our programming capacity, continue our national expansion, and provide even greater opportunities for veteran entrepreneurship.

Who: Bunker Labs and Freeborn & Peters, 400 guests expected including corporate leaders, elected officials, veterans and entrepreneurs

When: Friday, November 6, 2015, 12 PM

Where: Union League Club, 65 W Jackson, 5th Floor Main Dining Room

Visuals/Media Opportunities: Press and camera crews are welcome at the event. Bunker companies will be on site to give demonstrations of their work.

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